



March 8, 1996

Carol -

In my opinion, Cement Creek should not be impacted by the flooding of the Sunnyside Mine, assuming that all that can be known is known. Water rising through a mining environment to reach a previous natural level can be intercepted by a variety of geologic features, such as faults, joints and other fractures, or adjacent mine openings, all of which can transport water in a variety of directions.

I think that pre-mining seeps and springs will again produce water flow, as does the mining company. I would be surprised if additional large flows will occur from fractures that we don't know about. The unknown quantity is the possible flooding of adjacent mines from which water might flow into a receiving environment, such as Cement Creek. These might have to be sealed in a manner similar to the Sunnyside if pollution becomes a problem.

Ralph